

## **ABSTRACT**

2 An online system and method for allowing a prospective  
3 buyer to complete an electronic RFP document and to have the  
4 RFP document transmitted to one or more appropriate  
5 prospective sellers of goods and services. The system and  
6 method provide the prospective buyer with the option of  
7 automatically identifying potentially appropriate sellers by  
8 means of key word searches in a compiled database of vendor  
9 information and product and services descriptions. The  
10 prospective buyer may also elect to review the database  
11 contents "manually" by means of selecting specific subject  
12 matter areas or incrementally reviewing a list of database  
13 vendors one at a time. The system directs the buyer's RFP to  
14 the selected vendors for review and consideration. This  
15 transmission is made electronically, typically by email  
16 protocols, for review by appropriate personnel at the  
17 selected vendor's business. Such review is carried out by an  
18 individual or automatically by the vendor's own system which  
19 identifies the appropriateness of the match with its range of  
20 offered goods and services. A proposal or price quote is  
21 then transmitted electronically back through the system to  
22 the prospective buyer for consideration, again typically by  
23 email protocols. The buyer may then review the various  
24 proposals and price quotes it receives back for consideration

1 and may select an appropriate vendor with which to carry out  
2 the commercial transaction.